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CITE TDCS +314/03858-67

DIST 16 MARCH 1967

COUNTRY: JORDAN/SAUDI ARABIA/UAR/SYRIA/UNITED KINGDOM

DOI: EARLY MARCH 1967

SUBJECT: COOPERATION BETWEEN HAJ AMIN HUSAYNI'S HIGHER ARAB
COMMITTEE, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND BRITISH INTELLIGENCE
ON ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE UAR AND SYRIA.

ACQ: JORDAN, AMMAN (6 MARCH 1967) FIELD NO. NJA-6665

SOURCE: A JORDANIAN BUSINESS MAN WHO COMES FROM A WELL-KNOWN WEST
BANK FAMILY AND IS BELIEVED TO ENJOY A RELATIONSHIP OF
TRUST WITH HAJ AMIN HUSAYNI AND EMIL GHOURI. SOURCE IS
RELATIVELY NEW AND UNTESTED. HE OBTAINED THIS INFORMATION
IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH HUSAYNI AND GHOURI.

1. GRAND MUFTI HAJ AMIN HUSAYNI REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH
THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN (GOJ) FOR HUSAYNI'S HIGHER ARAB COMMITTEE
TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOJ AND SAUDI ARABIA IN ACTIVITIES AGAINST
THE UAR AND SYRIA. THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BE COORDINATED WITH
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE. HUSAYNI DESCRIBED THE AGREEMENT AS PART
OF A LARGER EFFORT BY JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA TO SHIFT THE CENTER

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OF ARAB NATIONALISM AND LEADERSHIP FROM CAIRO TO AN AMMAN/JIDDA AXIS.

2. AS ITS PART IN IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT, THE HIGHER ARAB COMMITTEE WILL:

A. WORK CLOSELY WITH JORDANIAN INTELLIGENCE AGAINST SYRIA. MEMBERS OF HUSAYNI'S ORGANIZATION WILL ACTUALLY RECRUIT AND DIRECT AGENTS IN SYRIA.

B. WORK WITH JORDANIAN INTELLIGENCE AND THE JORDANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO FOMENT TROUBLE BETWEEN PALESTINIANS RESIDING IN SYRIA AND LEBANON.

C. ASSIST SAUDI ARABIA AND GREAT BRITAIN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO COUNTER UAR INFLUENCE AMONG PALESTINIANS IN THE GULF SHAYKHDOMS AND ARABIAN PENINSULA.

3. AS AN EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION WHICH HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, HUSAYNI MENTIONED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION HAD SPOTTED, RECRUITED AND PAID, AT THE BEHEST OF JORDANIAN INTELLIGENCE, THE MAN WHO UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO ASSASSINATE SHAFIQ AL HUT IN BEIRUT. (FIELD COMMENT: A SENIOR SECURITY OFFICIAL, WHOSE REPORTING OVER SEVERAL YEARS HAS BEEN RELIABLE, REPORTED THAT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS ENGINEERED BY DEPUTY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE JORDAN ARAB ARMY SHARIF NASIR.)

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4. HUSAYNI DID NOT GO INTO DETAILS CONCERNING HIS AGREEMENT TO ASSIST THE GOJ INTERNALLY TO COUNTER UAR AND PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION INFLUENCE AMONG WEST BANK PALESTINIANS, ALTHOUGH HE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING EXISTS AND THAT HE PLANS TO CREATE AN ORGANIZATION IN JORDAN. HUSAYNI'S REPRESENTATIVE IN FERDAN, EMIL GHOURI, IS ATTEMPTING TO RECRUIT FOLLOWERS OF HUSAYNI ON JORDAN'S WEST BANK, AND THE HIGHER ARAB COMMITTEE IS COVERTLY SPONSORING AT LEAST TWO CANDIDATES IN THE COMING JORDANIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

5. HUSAYNI PRAISED HIS INITIAL RECEPTION IN JORDAN BY THE GOJ, BUT AS A RESULT OF SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH WEST BANK NOTABLES, HUSAYNI WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED BY HIS RECEPTION AMONG JORDANIAN PALESTINIANS. HUSAYNI STATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT EMIL GHOURI HAD OVERESTIMATED HUSAYNI'S POPULARITY ON THE WEST BANK, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNG PALESTINIANS. (SOURCE COMMENT: IT CAN BE INFERRED FROM GHOURI'S RECENT ACTIVITIES AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS THAT GHOURI'S TRUE LOYALTIES LIE WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER WASFI TAL, RATHER THAN WITH HUSAYNI.)

6. (SOURCE COMMENT: AS A RESULT OF HIS WEAK RECEPTION BY PALESTINIANS IN JORDAN, HUSAYNI MAY SOMEWHAT MODIFY HIS ORIGINAL

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INTENTION TO BASE ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGHER ARAB COMMITTEE IN JERUSALEM. HOWEVER, FOR PERSONAL REASONS HUSAYNI DOES INTEND TO SPEND AS MUCH OF HIS FUTURE TIME IN JERUSALEM AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.)

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7. (FIELD COMMENT: NJA-6658/REPORTED THE RELUCTANCE OF SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS TO BECOME OVERLY INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING HUSAYNI'S ACTIVITIES IN JORDAN. SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS BY SENIOR JORDANIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING KING HUSAYN, WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM THAT WHILE THE GOJ IS WILLING TO EXTEND HUSAYNI MAXIMUM HOSPITALITY, IT CONSIDERS HUSAYNI AN OLD MAN WITH LIMITED ENERGY, CAPABILITY AND FOLLOWING. HUSAYNI'S ASPIRATIONS WOULD APPEAR TO EXCEED BOTH HIS POLITICAL POTENTIAL AND THE SUPPORT WHICH JORDAN IS PREPARED TO OFFER. HOWEVER, COOPERATION IN THE CONDUCT OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY.)

8. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY CINCMEAFSA (ALSO SENT [] []

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